BARILI, M. et. al. ·
Appl. Nò. To be assigned
US National Phase of PCT/EP03/00144
July 14, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1)(original) A flexible and scalable method for handling telecommunication equipment through the control of ATM access networks, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein a Board Relay ~~(BR)~~ functionality is attributed to any Device Processor ~~(DP)~~ and ~~in that the~~ wherein a Central Processor ~~(CP)~~ is connected to all the other Device Processors ~~(DP)~~ by simply addressing the messages to the Board Relay ~~(BR)~~ and relaying them through it.

2)(original) Method according to claim 1), wherein the Board Relay ~~(BR)~~ functionality supervises all the other Device Processors ~~(DP)~~ on behalf of the Central Processor.

3)(currently amended) Method according to claim 1) ~~and 2)~~, wherein the Board Relay ~~(BR)~~ functionality is given by the Central Processor ~~(CP)~~ to the Device Processors ~~(DP)~~ chosen according to the network configuration, through configuration messages.

4)(currently amended) Method as in ~~claims 1) to 3)~~ claim 1 wherein the bandwidth allocated through an ATM backbone for a single management connection ~~(PVC)~~ is shared between the device processors ~~(DP)~~ supervised by the board relay ~~(BR)~~.

862663

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5)(currently amended) Method according to ~~claims 1) to 4)~~claim 1, wherein the

connections between Central Processor ~~(CP)~~ and Device Processors ~~(DP)~~ take place

using Ethernet and ATM network/switch.

6)(currently amended) Method according to ~~claims 1) to 5)~~claim 1,

implementable both on newly designed and existing networks.

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